

# The Guardian

A Publication of the Wyoming Air National Guard

October 2005

## Commander's Column

Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast with a fury. The destruction in Gulfport, Biloxi, and New Orleans is without a doubt going to set a record for the most costly natural disaster in the United States.

Wyoming was directly affected by the hurricane; we had eight troops in training at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. Luckily none were injured and we have full accountability.

Keesler was very heavily damaged and we will be feeling ripples from this for months and years ahead as the training normally performed at Keesler will have to be sorted-out.

Although the Wyoming Air National Guard had two airplanes deployed to MAFFS in Boise and one airplane in the desert on loan to the active duty we managed to contribute two more of our C-130s, two aircrews, and three aeromedical evacuation crews.

We moved about 200 patients and passengers out of New Orleans to San Antonio, Shreveport, and Little Rock. We also carried cargo and troops into New Orleans and the Gulfport Area.

Even as busy as we are, members stepped up and volunteered to help. We were able to send the two airplanes full

of Wyoming Army National Guard troops and equipment within hours of getting the official launch order from the Governor.

Our two C-130's came home from MAFFS activation in Boise, Idaho in early September. We flew 145 sorties dropping more than 404,746 gallons of fire retardant.

Thanks to all for your hard work and making sure the mission was done safely. This year we helped put out fires in Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Oregon, saving thousands of acres and countless structures from burning.

MAFFS is certainly one of the most rewarding missions that we do in the C-130 community, and once again you did a fantastic job!

October drill will have the senior leadership seminar at the FE Warren Base Theater on Saturday.

We will have Brigadier General Ickes from the Guard Bureau here as our guest speaker, I'm sure he will have a lot of good information for us.

We are still pressing ahead with the Active Associate unit and it looks like we should get the 4 additional airplanes from BRAC. All of this could start happening pretty fast, so stay tuned for more details

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## Sexual Assault Policy & Procedures Affects the ANG

By Col Michael Lloyd  
Judge Advocate  
153d Airlift Wing

On 26 July 2005, the Air Force revised its policies and procedures for the prevention of and response to sexual assault.

How the changes affect you and the WYANG might be best understood by examining sexual assault's definition & three salient policy concepts.

Under the revised policy, "Sexual assault is a crime. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling), or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim. "Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious."

While this definition applies to the WYANG, criminal prosecution under state law may define sexual assault differently.

One new position created is a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) serving as the point of contact for integrating and coordinating sexual assault victim care from an initial report of sexual assault, through disposition and resolution of issues related to the victim.

A SARC ensures the victim support system provides

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Colonel Harold Reed  
153d Air Wing Commander

## Policy

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a sexual assault response capability for victims.

A SARC chairs the Sexual Assault Case Management Group.

A SARC recruits, screens, interviews, trains and supervises a unit's Victim Advocates.

A second new position created is the Victim Advocate (VA) providing essential support, liaison services and care to the victim. A VA provides crisis intervention, referral and on-going non-clinical support, including information on options and resources to keep the victim informed about case decisions.

VA services cease when no longer needed. A VA is a mature volunteer assisting in very sensitive situations. A VA does not provide any counseling or other professional services to a victim. VA is a military additional duty.

A third key concept is known as restricted reporting, meaning Command only receives non-personal identifying information such as if the incident was recent (within last 30 days), day, time, general location, number of assailants, number of alleged victims and nature of assault (e.g. rape, sodomy, etc).

It is only available to those serving in a Title 10, Federal active duty status, at the time of the assault. This likely means a Guardmember cannot opt to make a restricted report unless on an AEF, deployed OCONUS, or attending tech school in Title 10 status.

If restricted reporting applies, a member decides whether or not to report the sexual assault as restricted meaning the victim's identity is not disclosed to Command.

Only SARC & a healthcare provider may receive a restricted report. Command may investigate an assault if it is learned from an independent source.

No new specific services (e.g. medical care and counseling) are created under the revised program. Thus an incident with no military nexus (e.g. off-base, not in a duty status) may result in a VA assisting in referrals to community offered assistance such as a rape crisis center.

The WYANG administers a robust SARC program & VA training has occurred. If interested in becoming a VA, or you have questions, please call Col Lloyd at 772.6737.

## Commander's Column

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as they unfold.

The Air Force will be conducting a Climate Assessment Survey for all members beginning in October. This survey is an excellent tool for members to provide feedback to senior leadership. It is critical that each member voice their opinion so we can continue to find ways to increase unit effectiveness and our ability to meet the demands required by our country.

Success of the survey rests with each member. Be prepared to "Speak Today to Shape Tomorrow".

While we have passed the "101 critical days of summer" we still have to remain vigilant. We are continuing to operate at an extremely high ops-tempo and another Wyoming winter is right around the corner, please stay safe and have a great October Drill!

## Climate Survey will begin in October

*By SMSgt James Branom  
Human Resource Advisor  
153d Airlift Wing*

The 2005 Air Force Climate Survey (AFCS), an Air Force-wide Organization Climate assessment, will be conducted 1 Oct - 23 Nov 05.

The Air Force Climate Survey is an Internet-based questionnaire designed to provide Air Force leaders candid feedback from their people on issues that impact unit effectiveness. The 2005 Air Force Climate Survey theme is "Speak Today, Shape Tomorrow."

We must ensure all of our people get the word and have the opportunity to participate. We expect results from the survey to be available in late Feb 06. Commanders will automatically receive final data reports for their units.

The climate survey is an excellent tool for leaders. First, it provides information about how members perceive their work environment.

Second, it is a catalyst for dialogue between leadership and unit members. Third, it can be used as a tool to improve the unit. The goal of the survey is to arm leaders with feedback that will lead to positive improvements.

Leaders are encouraged to review the feedback provided from the survey and develop an action plan for instituting changes and improvements to the unit.

Beginning 1 Oct 05, respondents will be able to access the survey directly from the Air Force Climate Survey website (<https://afclimatesurvey.af.mil/>).

Respondents can access the survey from a government (dot mil) or non-government computer (dot com). The Air Force has established several layers of safeguards to ensure your identity is protected.

The respondents create their own Survey ID and Password at the beginning of the survey. These are used to return to the last answered question in case the Internet connection is lost or the respondent wants to exit the survey and continue later.

At the end of the survey collection period, the IDs and passwords are deleted.

The mission is to ensure all Air National Guard members assigned to your organization have the opportunity to participate in the Air Force Climate Survey and give valuable feedback to their unit leadership regarding their organization's climate.

Success of the Air Force Climate Survey rests with you! A POC should be assigned at the unit level to augment the Survey Administration Team in coordinating the effort. Let's work together to make this survey a success!

### The Guardian

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## Wyoming Air Guard DDR Team to visit schools across state

**Cheyenne**—Members from the Wyoming National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction team will visit students at the following schools.

Green River - Monroe Intermediate School, Sept. 6 - 8.  
Glenrock - Glenrock Middle School, Sept. 21 and Oct. 5.  
Afton - Star Valley Middle School, Sept. 26 - 30.  
Gillette - Twin Spruce Junior High, Oct. 24 - 28 and Oct. 31 - Nov. 4.

The DDR team works by using activity-based curriculum to teach drug education. These activities focus on the life skills necessary to lead positive, drug free, healthy lifestyles.

"The National Guard wants to give back to their communities, one way of accomplishing this is by educating Wyoming's youth on the dangers of drugs and alcohol," said 1st Lt. Eric Green, DDR operations officer.

The team has worked with more than 100 schools and more than 15,000 students across Wyoming.

## MAFFS units deactivated

**Cheyenne**—The Wyoming Air National Guard personnel and planes deployed July 21 to fight wild fires in the west, have been deactivated by the National Interagency Firefighting Center in Boise, Idaho.

The 31 personnel and two C-130s equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems returned to Cheyenne from Boise Saturday.

Lt. Col. Michael Exstrom, 153rd Operations Group MAFFS coordinator said, "Our unit was instrumental in helping to lessen the fire threat. We dropped more than 404,746 gallons of fire retardant in 145 sorties."

The Wyoming Air National Guard is one of four National Guard and Reserve units in the country trained to operate the MAFFS units. Each MAFFS unit can drop 3,000 gallons of fire retardant in 8 - 10 seconds.

## Guard collects donations for hurricane victims

**Cheyenne**- The Wyoming Air National Guard has responded with an open wallet to a challenge from MPF for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

MPF challenged Wyoming Air National Guard members to help out the victims by donating funds that will be sent to the Red Cross. Members donated a total of \$2,130 that will assist those victims.

"It's great to see the Wyoming Air National Guard step up and help those who have lost so much because of the destruction of Hurricane Katrina," Capt. Nicole Chavez, MPF commander, said. "Thank you so much for your donations. It will greatly help those victims in the south."

**Read the Guardian Online  
at [www.wychey.ang.af.mil](http://www.wychey.ang.af.mil)**

## Wyoming Air Guard assists with Katrina disaster evacuation

*By Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Wyoming National Guard*

**Cheyenne** - The Wyoming National Guard currently has more than 40 personnel deployed to Louisiana and Mississippi to assist victims and relief workers during Hurricane Katrina recovery operations.

Initially the Wyoming National Guard responded with 73 people, two C-130s and four UH-60s, aeromedical evacuation supplies and mobile kitchens. Completed missions have brought 30 people and the two C-130s back to Cheyenne.

"We moved out 2,500 people in the three days we were there," said Tech. Sgt. Mike Tarbuck, a medical technician with the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Tarbuck and 14 other squadron members were tasked to transport patients on Wyoming's C-130s from New Orleans to safe havens in Arkansas, Georgia, Texas and Louisiana a few days after Katrina plowed through the area.

"This was my first mission as an aerovac crew member and it was exciting for me," said the 12-year military veteran. "But then the realization hits when you see a patient get on the plane with a plastic bag and you know that's all they have in the world."

"We are proud to have Wyoming soldiers and airmen among the more than 48,000 National Guard personnel from every state and territory assisting victims of this tragedy," said Maj. Gen. Ed Wright, Wyoming's adjutant general.

Currently more than 30,000 National Guard personnel are operating in Louisiana. Among them are 19 members of the Wyoming Army National Guard and 12 members of the 153rd Security Forces Squadron.

The 19 Wyoming Army National Guard soldiers and four UH-60 helicopters are stationed at New Orleans Naval Air Station. Since arriving on Sept. 3, they have flown more than 117 hours transporting search and rescue personnel, performing hoist rescues of hurricane victims.

The 12 members of the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Security Forces Squadron currently are stationed at the River Center in Baton Rouge, La., protecting displaced residents there and at other locations.

Master Sgt. Doug Rhoades, noncommissioned officer in charge of the security personnel in Louisiana, said the unit members' morale remains high given the tragedy around them.

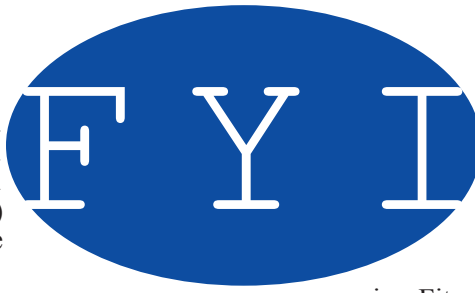
"When you work so closely with these people it is hard to accept the fact they have nothing left except for a few bags of clothing they might have brought along. I think one of the hardest facts is that at the end of my deployment I will be returning to my house in Cheyenne while thousands have nowhere to go," he said.

In Mississippi, Wyoming Air National Guard personnel are feeding relief workers from a staging area in Gulfport. Twelve members of the 153rd Services Flight arrived in Gulfport on Sept. 3 and, with 120 other services personnel, immediately began the overwhelming task of feeding and housing more than 3,500 relief workers located at a base built to house 900.

Chief Master Sgt. Rob Coughenour, 153rd Services Flight chief, said the group of Air National Guard and Army personnel has served more than 87,000 meals, set up three tent cities and are working 16-hour shifts to support all the operations. "Everyone is blending together well to get the job done," he said. "This is a huge, monstrous operation."

The Wyoming National Guard's hurricane response effort has entailed more than deploying its own people. The 153rd Aerial Port Flight, whose mission is to prepare and load military aircraft, has loaded more than 168,090 pounds of cargo and 97 active duty and guard personnel on C-130's, C-17's and KC-135's from Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Wyoming and other states.





**Dental visits are mandatory** – You must have an annual dental visit for good dental hygiene, as well as maintain a DD form 2813 (record of dental visit) in the clinic. Visit the clinic for more information.

**Benefits for National Guard and Reserve Personnel** (especially those who are deployed.) Information can be found at: [http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/res\\_guard.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/res_guard.htm)

**Network Accounts** - All members must complete the Information Assurance Computer Based Training, if not your account will be locked. Simply log onto the Air Force Portal to complete your training: <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af/afp40/USAF/ep/home.do> It is essential that all users of the Wyoming ANG network understand their responsibilities and accountability for their role in protecting our enterprise system.

**Fitness Improvement Classes** are offered every Saturday of UTA in the Clinic Mezzanine at 0900 and are mandatory for individuals who have scored in the "poor"

range (less than 70%) on their Fitness Assessment.

They will be formally entered into the Fitness Improvement Plan and must bring a copy of their fitness assessment score sheet. Anyone who is concerned about an upcoming Fitness Assessment or who scored "marginal" (70-74.9%) is welcome to attend, but not required to.

**The Cowboy Guard** - Please take a few moments to read the Wyoming National Guard newsletter, **Cowboy Guard**. The quarterly electronic publication can be found at: <http://www.wy.ngb.army.mil/Cowboy-guard/>

**Check your email from home!** You can remotely access your email while you're away from the Guard. Log on to <https://mail.wychevyang.af.mil> <<https://remote.wychevyang.af.mil/>>.

**ESGR** - Each unit has a ESGR liaison that can assist you with any concerns or questions. Ask your squadron commander to find out who your liaison is.

Read the Guardian Online at [www.wychevyang.af.mil](http://www.wychevyang.af.mil)

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